

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your August 1, 2013 letter to Administrator McCarthy regarding your concerns about the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She asked me to respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is evaluating a variety of cleanup alternatives for the site under the authority of the Superfund law. EPA will continue to work with you, the City of Kalamazoo, and other stakeholders to receive input on various cleanup options before issuing a proposed cleanup plan for public comment.

EPA and the City of Kalamazoo have discussed redevelopment, including how various cleanup alternatives might be implemented to achieve all or some of the City's goals. If the City were to take ownership of all or a portion of the site, EPA would work with the City to explore appropriate environmental liability protections, including a potential comfort letter.

Estimated costs for all potential cleanup alternatives that leave waste in place factor in long-term operation and maintenance. Costs related to loss of business activities or potential tax revenues, referenced in your letter, are not factored into the cost evaluation of potential remedies. Additionally, if the remedy selected for Allied Landfill exceeds the available bankruptcy funds, EPA's remedial action prioritization panel would need to review and rank the site for funding consideration before any remedial action work could begin. As you know, the Superfund remedial budget has undergone substantial reductions in the past few years, and future years point to continued constrained budgets.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denise Gawlinski or Kate Balasa, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator